

MLN Matters Number: SE0413

Related Change Request (CR) #: N/A

Related CR Release Date: N/A

Effective Date: April 1, 2004

Related CR Transmittal #: N/A

Implementation Date: April 1, 2004

Temporary Hold of Outpatient Claims Subject to the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) in April 2004

Note: This article was revised to contain web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

Hospitals and other providers submitting outpatient claims subject to the OPPS

Provider Action Needed

No action is needed. This article is informational only.

Background

On March 25, 2004, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the April 2004 OPPS PRICER software to the maintainers of the systems used by Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) in processing Medicare outpatient claims subject to the OPPS.

To allow sufficient time for the testing and installation of this software by the FIs, CMS has instructed the FIs to hold outpatient claims, which are subject to the OPPS and contain dates of service on or after April 1, 2004. The FIs will hold such claims until their systems are ready to process them using the April 2004 OPPS PRICER, but the FIs must begin processing these claims on or before April 19, 2004.

Because Medicare does not make payment for claims received electronically until 14 days after receipt, at the earliest, it is unlikely that any such claims would have been eligible for payment until April 15. Thus, this delay should have little, if any, adverse impact on affected hospitals and providers, especially since the FIs must begin processing the held claims no later than April 19.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

Additional Information

Should you have questions regarding this issue, please contact your FI at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS web site.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.